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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/599,467

09/29/2006

Stein Kuiper

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09/29/2008

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

COLLINS, DARRYL J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2873

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/599,467 | Applicant(s) KUIPER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner DARRYL J. COLLINS | Art Unit 2873 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5-10,13-23,25 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,11,12,24 and 27-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 24 and 27-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The examiner would like to point out that the Applicant's Representative is in error when indicating claim 27 as being dependent on claim 24. As amended, claim 27 appears in independent form.

Claim Objections

Claims 11 and 32 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 11 and 32 appear to be duplicate claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 24 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuboi et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,702,483) in view of Floyd (U.S. Patent Number 5,684,637) and further in view of Sigler (U.S. Patent Number 4,958,919).

Although Tsuboi et al teaches a variable focus lens (column 17, lines 47-48) comprising a first fluid (Figure 1, element 121) and a second fluid (Figure 1, element 122) wherein the fluids

Art Unit: 2873

have different indices of refraction (column 17, lines 32-42) and is selectively controlled (column 18, lines 1-9) as claimed in independent claims 1, 24, 27, 30 and 31, Tsuboi et al fails to teach wherein one of the fluids is non-colorless. Floyd, however, teaches a variable focus lens (Figure 3) wherein the fluid is colored (column 9, lines 53-54), wherein Sigler further teaches a means for color correction when using liquid lens elements (page 1, lines 9-11) such that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical element as taught by Tsuboi et al with the colored fluid as taught by Floyd and the color correction means as taught by Sigler for the purpose of optical filtering.

With regards to claim 2, the use of a dye or pigment is believed to be an inherent feature of a colored fluid.

With regards to claim 4, Tsuboi et al and Sigler teach all of the limitations of the instant invention as applied to independent claim 1 above, wherein Tsuboi et al further teaches the two fluids as having differing transmittance properties (column 2, lines 25-26). In view of the well known technique of using colored fluids in fluid lenses as taught by Floyd, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to color the fluids as taught by Tsuboi et al with differing dyes to provide a specific filtering capability.

With regards to claims 11 and 32, it is very well known in the optic art to use various colors (i.e., yellow, red or brown) to achieve filtering of a specific wavelength such that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a specific color dye to achieve selective filtering.

Again, Tsuboi et al and Sigler teach all of the limitations of the instant invention as applied to independent claim 1 above, wherein Tsuboi et al further teaches the second fluid as

Art Unit: 2873

being axially displaced from the first fluid (Figure 1) wherein the fluids are in contact over a meniscus (Figure 1, element 124), the lens further comprising a first electrode (Figure 1, element 125) and a second electrode (Figure 1, element 102), wherein the shape of meniscus can be controlled by an applied voltage between the first and second electrodes (column 18, lines 1-9) as claimed in dependent claim 12.

One again, Tsuboi et al teaches all of the limitations of the instant invention as applied to independent claim 1 above, and further teaches the use of such a variable focus lens in other kinds of optical devices (column 20, lines 24-25) as claimed in dependent claims 28, 29, 33 and 34.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DARRYL J. COLLINS whose telephone number is (571)272-2325. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 - 5:00 Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2873

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Darryl J. Collins/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873

23 September 2008